

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 072488

61

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-10 DPW-01

/046 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:PAW

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK

----- 050863

R 312248Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072488

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PINS, RP

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: MANILA 3881

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CALLED ON AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ MARCH 25 TO PROTEST ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. GROUP ARMED WITH PRINTED MATERIAL FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING MOVEMENT FOR FREE PHILIPPINES, ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE. MATERIAL, WHICH INCLUDED TEXTS OF DE LA TORRE LETTERS, CONTAINED NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE OF PRISONERS BY GOP AGENCIES.

2. ONE OF PARTICIPANTS INFORMED COUNTRY DIRECTOR THAT AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ RECEIVED GROUP COURTEOUSLY. ROMUALDEZ SAID HE COULD NOT PERSONALLY CONFIRM OR DENY THAT MISTREATMENT HAD OCCURRED BUT IF IT HAD, HE WAS SURE IT WAS NOT PART OF A WIDESPREAD PATTERN OR AS RESULT OF DELIBERATE GOP POLICY. HE PROMISED TO REPORT TO GOP GROUP'S COMMENTS AND REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT INSPECTION OF CONFINEMENT CONDITIONS, AS WELL AS ANY DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THEY MIGHT WISH TO SUBMIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 072488

DENCE THEY MIGHT WISH TO SUBMIT.

3. EMBASSY DCM BELISARIO TOLD GROUP NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AT PRESENT NOT MORE THAN 1600.

4. DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED.

KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PRISONERS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, PRISONERS WELFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE072488  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BAFLECK:PAW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750111-1065  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975031/aaaaaanm.tel  
**Line Count:** 68  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MANILA 3881  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**TAGS:** PINS, RP, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE  
**To:** MANILA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006